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# Fowlerville Community Schools

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Comments on Docket: WC DOCKET NO.03-16

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## Summary of Situation

Fowlerville Community School District is located in Fowlerville, Michigan at the western edge of Livingston County. Our district is situated across a telecommunications lata from the rest of the Livingston County School Districts and the Livingston Educational Service Agency (LESA). FCC regulations currently prohibit Ameritech from crossing this lata in order to provide services between Fowlerville Community Schools and Livingston Educational Service Agency (seven miles away). We would like to be permitted to run a T1 or other dedicated line to make this connection.

We would like to make this connection because of the following reasons:

- All of the school districts in Livingston County have been working on a strategic plan for increasing our capacity to provide electronic learning opportunities to our students. The integration of technology in education requires increasing amounts of interconnectedness and bandwidth. With current and future trends toward distance learning and digital video content, interconnectedness is the critical factor limiting our district's potential for content delivery, development, and enhancement.
- Livingston Educational Service Agency has purchased the infrastructure, including ISDN lines and networking equipment, to route and support the entire county's use of distance learning opportunities. This includes two-way interactive video projects such as electronic fieldtrips (where students are interacting live with people in a different location), professional development (sharing resources within



the county and across the globe), and video conferencing (i.e. Michigan Department of Education's state-wide video conferencing network). We are not able to participate in the "economy of scale" and would have to purchase the entire infrastructure ourselves.

- Currently our Internet service is provided through a T1 line that runs to Michigan State University. Our contract with Ameritech (through Wayne RESA) costs the district \$250 per month. This contract expires next fall and the cost for this same connection will be somewhere between \$770 and \$2,300 per month due to the new additional charge for mileage. If Ameritech is permitted to cross the lata for Fowlerville Community School District the cost for a T1 connection to LESA would be \$350 per month. Other telecommunications carriers could provide the services that we need, but they all rely on Ameritech's infrastructure and are not part of the contract through the Wayne RESA consortium. As a result, the cost of a T1 from another provider is at least \$2000 per month.

As you can see, Fowlerville Community School District not being able to connect directly to the Livingston Educational Service Agency puts our students and staff at a severe disadvantage. The resources that are available across the county through LESA will be used to enhance curriculum, academic achievement and professional development.

If the FCC grants SBC their application for Interlata connectivity our problem will be resolved. If this does not happen our school district hopes that SBC Ameritech will be allowed a modification to the lata boundary so they are permitted to provide our T-1 connection to LESA.

Thank you so much for your consideration.